

*Spécimen de la Nature*

NATURE DISPLAYED,

IN

CONVERSATIONS

BETWEEN THE

CHILDREN OF A FAMILY.

MASTERS DISTRICT

COMMUNICATIONS

THE NEW YORK

CHURCH OF THE FUTURE

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Printe



LILLIPUTIAN

*Spectacle de la Nature:*

OR,

NATURE DELINEATED,

IN

CONVERSATIONS AND LETTERS

PASSING BETWEEN THE

CHILDREN OF A FAMILY.

IN THREE VOLUMES.

VOL. II.

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London:

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CHILDREN OF A FAMILY.

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# DEDICATION.

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T O

MRS. C - - - - ,

The worthy MOTHER of the  
FAMILY for whom this little  
BOOK was first written.

DEAR MADAM,

**T**HOUGH it might not be  
agreeable to you, to be  
addressed by name on this  
occasion ; yet I cannot deny  
A 3 myself

myself the pleasure of dedicating to *you*, what was written to oblige you.

There is a satisfaction in giving vent to the sentiments one feels ; yet it might not accord with your ideas of delicacy, to be challenged as the encourager of my venturing to expose myself to the public eye. Therefore I use this expedient for indulging my propensity to express the sentiments I bear to you, without

without hazard of wounding  
that delicacy.

I should not fear to expose  
to public view, what had  
met with your approbation,  
if the eye of Criticism were  
not closed by *Friendship*.

Diveſt you of partiality,  
and I could truſt implicitly  
to your judgment.

If I were not conſcious  
that Affection, not Judg-  
ment, decides on my trifles;



I should be likely “ *to creep*  
“ *in favour with myself.*”—

I should be ready (like *Richard*) to imagine I had been  
“ *mistaken all this while—*”  
since you find (although I  
cannot) *myself to be a marvelous*  
*clever woman.*

To be serious: My heart  
is gratified by your approba-  
tion ; and though my vanity  
is not raised by praises that  
flow from Affection, yet let  
me glory in that Friendship,  
which

which veils from your notice  
the imperfections of,

DEAR MADAM,

Your affectionate Friend,

---

P R E-

(ix)  
which veils even your notice  
the imperfections of

DEAR MADAM

Your affectionate Friend

---

P. A. B.

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## P R E F A C E.

A MOTHER who pays any attention to the health of her Child, will not suffer him to run about at random, and feed on whatever he meets with.

What *food* and *air* are to the body, such are *ideas* to the mind. In a sensible Child, the mental appetite is as eager as the bodily; and shall its cravings be neglected? or, still worse, be supplied with unwholesome trash?

“ Forbid it sense ! forbid it love ! ”

The

The management of a Family of Children is an arduous task ; nor will the regulation of their diet, and earliest studies, be esteemed the least of its duties, so long as “ a healthy mind in a “ healthy body” remains the definition of happiness.

The Reader will smile, in expectation that this harangue is designed to introduce an encomium upon *my own entertainment* which I offer to place upon his Nursery-table—~~and~~ let him smile.

I confess, I flatter myself that I have provided a plain *dish*,  
which



which has this negative merit to boast, that there is no latent poison disguised by seasonings.

I can likewise assert, that it has pleased the palate of my own little friends, and agreed with their stomachs. It is but a morsel; but, if it prove palatable and nourishing to young folk, it will surely be acceptable to their Parents.

If I add, that those Parents to whose inspection I have submitted this Trifle have approved it, I shall add nothing but the truth.

— But partial affection to the Writer might mislead their superior

rior judgment:—to the PUBLIC.  
 I now venture to expose this  
 Trifle ; and by the decision of  
 the Public I must abide.

**SPEAK.**

# S P E A K E R S.

Mrs. WORTHY.

JAMES WORTHY, elder Son,

EDMUND WORTHY, second  
Son (School-boys).

EMIMA WORTHY, elder  
Daughter.

GILBERT WORTHY, third  
Son.

WALTER WORTHY, fourth  
Son, is absent.

BERNARD WORTHY, fifth  
Son, a little Boy.

SARAH WORTHY, youngest  
Daughter, a little Girl.

CON.

STEPHEN

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C

Eleph

Lam

Croo

Fack

Woly

Bear

Dorn

Mar

Guin

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## DIALOGUE I.

### Scene, *An Arbour.*

JEMIMA, JAMES, EDMUND.

*Jemima.* I HAVE a thousand questions to ask ; so many, that I am at a loss which to ask first.

*James.* I think one thousand are over.

*Jem.* But I am sure you will have pleasure in answering these.

*James.* My dear Sister, I always have pleasure in gratifying your curiosity,

*Jem.* I know your kindness : but my joy at your first arrival is such, that I cannot settle to enquiries that lead to any

useful information : and those you are so able——

*James.* No compliments, *Femima.*

*Edm.* The first few days after meeting, fly away so swiftly, that I can hardly recollect any thing we can be said to have done since we met.

*James.* They have passed like a dream. Now our first transports are over, let us endeavour to improve the time that remains.

*Fem.* My Mama told me this morning, that, when the hurry of our joy was over, she hoped we should converse together upon the books we had read since we parted. How agreeably we passed a part of our last holidays, in studying the history of Insects ! Have you read any thing upon the subject since ?

*James.* As our school business increases, our leisure hours are abridged :

but I have read a little upon the subject.

*Jem.* And made extracts for me?

*James.* A few.

*Jem.* Where are they? I long to see them.

*James.* Indeed, they are in so confused a state—written at short intervals, in the midst of noise and bustle—that I shall blush to produce them, even to you. Yet, if I defer making you a partaker till I have time to transcribe them correctly, perhaps——

*Jem.* Oh! dear Brother! do not mention it: a thousand *perhaps* may disappoint me——

*James.* Not to defer your pleasure, I will fetch them: but the Extracts are upon a multitude of scraps of paper: suppose we go into my closet.

*Jem.* With all my heart, *Edmund.*

*Edm.* I will call *Gilbert*: he will like to be of the party.

*Fem.* I wish *Walter* could fly over now—he would be delighted.

*Edm.* If we could copy for him all the Extracts we have made—and our remarks upon the subjects we have—

*Fem.* Or, suppose we wrote to him our conversations? then he would enjoy our society, though he is so far absent.

*James.* We will.

*Fem.* Come, let us hasten.

[*Exeunt.*]

DIA-



## DIALOGUE II.

---

Scene, A Closet.

JAMES, EDMUND, JEMIMA,  
GILBERT,

*Sitting round a table strewed with papers,  
pens, ink, and books.*

James (*seeking in a port-folio*). **M**Y scraps are in  
such disorder—  
Here is one upon Serpents—one upon  
Birds—a third on Fish—and another  
about the Silk-worm.

Jem. Brother, how you tantalize us!  
Read us something.

James. But I wish to collect all the  
Extracts I have upon one subject to-  
gether.



*Edmund (struggling amicably with his Brother).* Come, let us dip, as in a lottery-wheel: nay, I will try my chance, secure of some prize. What is here?

—CAMEL,

[Reads,

“ The CAMEL

“ Will travel a hundred miles in a day:  
 “ he will carry a thousand or twelve  
 “ hundred weight thirty or thirty-five  
 “ miles in a day.

“ Besides four stomachs (in common  
 “ with all animals that chew the cud),  
 “ the Camel has a fifth, as a reservoir for  
 “ water.

“ Perseverance and hardiness distin-  
 “ guish him above all quadrupeds, and pe-  
 “ culiarly adapt him to the barren coun-  
 “ tries where he is found in the most  
 “ vigorous state.

“ His common pace does not exceed  
 “ three miles an hour, at which rate he

“ will

" will go sixteen hours in the twenty-  
 " four, for a journey of a month and  
 " upwards : but put him beyond his  
 " usual speed, and he soon tires. For a  
 " day, it may be quickened to five or six  
 " miles an hour.

" When his strength fails him upon  
 " the road, such are his patience and per-  
 " severance, that he pursues his journey  
 " as long as he has power to support his  
 " weight.

" A Camel is patient of hunger. He  
 " takes a quarter of an hour to quench  
 " his enormous thirst. He is as ready  
 " to drink often, as any other animal,  
 " notwithstanding the large quantity of  
 " liquid which his stomach can contain.  
 " He is the only animal who ruminates  
 " (if I may so term it) his drink, as he  
 " journeys along ; and is no more op-

" pressed by it, than an ox with his cud,  
 " which he chews at his leisure.

" The camel is useful in various ways:  
 " his labour, milk, skin, flesh, even  
 " excrement—which supplies sal ammo-  
 " niac, litter, fuel."

*Gilb.* I would not interrupt you—but  
 —those four stomachs?

*James.* Those animals that chew the  
 cud, have four stomachs. The act of  
 chewing the cud is called *ruminating*,  
 and esteemed analogous to *re-considering*  
 what we have heard or read; the animal  
 recalling, as it were, his food to chew it  
 over again.

Those animals that feed on flesh, have  
 short intestines: those whose food is ve-  
 getable, have their intestines long; flesh  
 requiring but little alteration in order to  
 be assimilated into the creature that feeds  
 upon

upon it; whereas it is a more tedious process to convert vegetables into flesh. The intestines of a sheep are thirty times the length of their body.

In *Africa*, the herbs afford more nourishment; and there, the same kind of animals which here have four stomachs, have only two.

Gilbert (*putting his hand into the portfolio*). Let us have another dip. My lot is the ELEPHANT. [Reads.]

“ The ELEPHANT

“ Is from seven to fifteen feet high. He  
 “ consumes as much provision as forty  
 “ men. With ease he exceeds six horses,  
 “ carrying three thousand weight upon  
 “ his back. On his tusks alone he will  
 “ support near a thousand weight; will  
 “ travel, with ease, fifty or sixty miles in  
 “ a day—and, occasionally, twice as  
 “ far.



" His sagacity, docility, and keenness  
" of sense, are wonderful.

" POPE calls him " half-reasoning."

" The L A M A

" Is the Camel of the New World. He  
" wants little water—from the profusion  
" of his saliva, which is his only offen-  
" sive weapon. The *Indians* believe it to  
" be very noxious."

*Gilb.* I have read very opposite ac-  
counts of the CROCODILE.

*James.* CROCODILES

*Are* very opposite in different countries.

*In Egypt*, they are solitary and fearful:  
about the river *St. Domingo*, they are  
harmless. Yet we are assured, from good  
authority, that, in some countries, they  
will, in inundations, enter the houses,  
and seize any animal: nay, they have  
been known to take a man out of a  
canoe.

*Jem.*



*Jem.* What size are they?

*James.* From eighteen to thirty feet long.

*Jem.* They are drawn with horrid mouths!

*Edm.* Horrid indeed! for I remember, that one of eighteen feet in length is said to have had a mouth that could extend so as to take in the body of a man.

*Gilb.* Is there any truth in the accounts of their deceit?

*James.* Perhaps a mixture of truth and falsehood. They are said to lie like the trunks of trees. Unhappy he, who should mistake a Crocodile for the trunk of a tree! it is not likely he would return to explain to us the disposition of the creature.

*Jem.* It is amphibious, I think?

*James.* It is.

*Gilb.* Where do they lay their eggs?

*James.* In the sand.

## The JACKALL.

*Gilb.* I have lately been reading about the JACKALL. I wish you may have some particulars relating to that animal. Is it so fierce as it is represented?

*James.* Rather say voracious. It is by some Naturalists ranked with the Dog kind, and called the Vulture of quadrupeds, to denote its habits.

*Fem.* That it is the purveyor of the Lion, I conclude, is an idle tale.

*James.* The Jackall is not intentionally the purveyor of the Lion: but he pursues his prey all night, keeping up a cry. The Lion, Tiger, and Panther follow in silence, and seize his prey.

*Edm.* Jackalls keep in troops, I think.

*James.* They do; and, in concert, tear up dead bodies out of the earth—exhorting, as it were, each other by a mournful cry.

*Fem.*

*Fem.* Terrible! do they devour human flesh?

*James.* If the ground be not thoroughly beaten over the graves.

*Gilb.* I remember, they follow armies, and keep in the rear of caravans.

*Fem.* But they will not seize a man, like the Tiger—will they?

*James.* No animal seizes a man, unless particularly pressed by hunger; and it is said, that very few will, even in the greatest extremity, if a man retain his presence of mind; for, naturally, the beasts seem still to retain something of that "fear and dread" which the Scripture mentions.

*Fem.* Yet it is observed, that, where any savage animal has once tasted human flesh, it can never refrain from pursuing it.

*James.* I know, where fierce animals are kept in *England*, that, if they get a  
taste

taste of human blood, they are said to become more savage, as if thirsting for more.

### The W O L F.

*Gilb.* The WOLF is said to be particularly fond of human flesh ; and that, by choice, it would eat no other : that, after it has once tasted of human flesh, it will attack a man.

*Edm.* What a blessing, that we only hear or read of these terrible creatures !

*James.* In *Athelstan's* reign, Wolves abounded so in *Yorkshire*, that a retreat was built at *Flixton*, in that county, " to defend passengers from the Wolves, " that they should not be devoured by " them,"

*Gilb.* Had we so many in *England* ?

*Edm.* They made such ravages during winter, particularly in *January*, when the cold was most severe, that our *Saxon* ancestors



ancestors distinguished that month by the title of "*Wolf-moneth.*"

*Gilb.* Have they any Wolves in Ireland?

*James.* They infested *Ireland* many centuries after their extinction in *England*; for there are accounts of some being found there as late as the year 1710.

*Jem.* It seems wonderful, that any race of animals should be entirely destroyed.

*James.* Wherever a country is become populous, those animals that are so injurious are generally extirpated. Perhaps, you do not know that *England* had BEARS.

The B E A R.

*Jem.* You are jesting, Brother!

*James.* No, indeed. *Plutarch* relates, that Bears were transported from *Britain* to *Rome*, where they were much admired. And some *Welsh* manuscripts relating to hunting, mention the Bear  
among



among our beasts of chase; observing that its flesh was held in the same esteem with that of the Hare or Boar.

*Fem.* I thought they had never been the native inhabitants, but imported,

*James.* They were imported, long after their extirpation, for the shameful purpose of baiting, which was exhibited, in Queen Elizabeth's days, as an entertainment for an Ambassador. Such were the times!

*Gilb.* Poor things! they lead but an uncomfortable life, I doubt, when led about to dance, as they are sometimes.

*Edm.* And how do you think they are instructed?

*Gilb.* I dare say, with much severity.

*Edm.* They are taught, by being placed upon plates of hot iron: the pain obliges them incessantly to shift their feet about, the music playing at the same

same time : so, whenever they hear the same sounds, they repeat those motions.

*Fem.* A melancholy dance, poor creature !

*James.* It is time to break up our conference. The clock reminds me, that time has flown indeed ! Come, let us prepare for dinner. [ *Exeunt.*

DIA.

## DIALOGUE III.

---

JEMIMA, GILBERT,

*Walking in a Grove.*

*Fem.* I MISS our conference just at this time, as we had fixed it for this hour, between our lessons and dressing-time.

*Gilb.* I regret the loss : but, as it is for our Brother's pleasure, I cannot wish it otherwise.

*Fem.* My Mama says, we shall see the Castle at *Windfor* next summer.

*Gilb.* I should like it very much.

*Fem.* Look, *Gilbert* ! there runs a little Mouse.

*Gilb.*

*Gilb.* Pretty little sprightly creatures !  
I had rather see them frisk about thus at liberty, than confined in a box.

*Fem.* So had I : for no tenderness or care in providing for a little captive, can make him amends for the want of liberty.

*Gilb.* I should always be fearful the poor animal was not quite happy, if he was prisoner in a cage.

*Fem.* But that was not the kind of Mouse that ladies keep in cages : they are DORMICE.

### The DORMOUSE

Resembles the Squirrel in its food, residence, and some of its actions. They inhabit woods, or thick hedges, and form their nests in the hollow of some low tree (or near the bottom of a close shrub), of grass, moss, and dead leaves.

*Gilb.* But surely they are not so sprightly as the Squirrel ?

*Fem.*



*Fem.* Far from it. They hoard nuts, &c. for winter provision; but their consumption is small, as they lie in a dozing state great part of the winter.

*Gilb.* It seems odd, that a creature should sleep so long.


### The MARMOUT.

*Fem.* The MARMOUT sleeps great part of the winter.

*Gilb.* What is that?

*Fem.* A little creature classed among the Hare kind: it inhabits the *Alps*.

*Gilb.* Pray tell me all you can recollect about it.

*Fem.* It lies in a torpor, or stagnation (that is the expression in my Author): the blood is said to be cold, and, so, easily congealed. They form an apartment in a rock, with a double entrance like a printed Y— : one serves as an approach; the other is rather as an out-  
let



let for the excrement. This apartment is warmly stuccoed with moss and hay.

*Gilb.* Wonderful! how can they do it?

*Fem.* It is the joint work of several: some cut the grass or moss, some gather, &c.

*Gilb.* But how do they convey it?

*Fem.* That is as surprising as any part of my account—you will never guess. One, lying upon its back, forms itself into a carriage, which the rest draw to the place. When the whole work is finished, they close the entrance, and lie within warm and snug, rolled into so many balls. When they are abroad, one always keeps watch.

*Gilb.* I thank you, Sister: I have not missed my expected entertainment.

*Fem.* Are you not delighted with the neatness of the animal?

*Gilb.*

*Gilb.* I am : but it is by no means peculiar to the Marmout : most creatures are cleanly. I think I could produce one, neat to a degree of finicalness.

*Fem.* Ha, ha !—what is that ?

*Gilb.* The GUINEA PIG ; Whose whole employment is said to be the smoothing its skin, and disposing the hair. They assist each other : each dresses the young, biting them when they are refractory.

*Fem.* I love them for their exact neatness about their young ones.

*Gilb.* But what do you say to the female, for deserting her young one, if it chance to fall in the dirt ?

*Fem.* Will the mother do so ?

*Gilb.* We are told that she will : yet they are not destitute of natural affection—for they watch the young in turn.

*Fem.*

*Jem.* I should like to go very often to *Sim Ashton Lever's*?

*Gilb.* So should I, with some person who could inform me of the name and nature of each creature that I saw.

*Jem.* My Papa would be a very good companion.

*Gilb.* That he would, upon all occasions.

*Jem.* Do you remember seeing the *British Museum*?

*Gilb.* I just remember a few objects, with which I was particularly struck.

*Jem.* Do you recollect the SLOTH?

The S L O T H.

*Gilb.* Oh, no. Was it in spirits?

*Jem.* It was: but one has no very good idea of an animal from seeing it in such a posture.

*Gilb.* I remember nothing of it. I suppose, from its name, that it is an indolent creature.

*Jem.*

*Fem.* I yawn when I think of it. Would you believe, that it moves but three feet in an hour? and that the length of fifty yards is a week's journey?

*Gilb.* Is it ill made for motion?

*Fem.* Particularly so; having his feet longer than the legs; and the legs growing out of his body in such a manner, that the sole of his foot seldom touches the ground.

*Gilb.* Poor creature! I suppose it does not often remove.

*Fem.* No: he is said never to change his place, till he is forced by hunger; and then, to send forth a melancholy cry at every step.

*Gilb.* I am entertained with the account of your animal; yet it is a very disgusting creature, and gives me pain to hear of it.

*Fem.* They must be miserable creatures.

*Gilb.*



*Gilb.* I could match your Sloth.

*Fem.* I think I may defy you ; let me hear.

*Gilb.* The GLUTTON.

*Fem.* The name promises something disgusting.

*Gilb.* The name expresses the disposition of the creature ; for it is voracious beyond measure, eating till it is swelled to a most enormous size. One that was in bad health, and confined, was unsatisfied with thirteen pounds of flesh in a day.

*Fem.* Is it as big as an Ox ?

*Gilb.* Only three feet long, and one foot and an half high.

*Fem.* Oh dear ! how well it deserves its nasty name !—How does it provide such a quantity of food ?

*Gilb.* In a manner worthy itself ;—drops from a tree upon a beast, and never quits



its hold, though its flesh be torn off against the trees, as the poor unhappy beast runs, till——

*Fem.* Dear Brother, say no more about your nasty filthy Glutton.

*Gilb.* You confess, then, I have matched your Sloth?

*Fem.* Fully, indeed.

*Gilb.* And, to complete the whole, it has an intolerable stench; indeed, one mark of the Weasel kind, is a powerful scent.

*Fem.* Surely, I have heard of a SQUASH?

#### AMERICAN POLE-CAT.

*Gilb.* The *American* Pole-cat, you mean. They have an insufferable stink about them, which reaches half a mile: when frightened, or enraged, this increases to a great degree.

*Fem.* We

*Fem.* We seem to be vying with each other still, in producing disagreeable subjects.

*Gilb.* Some of the tribe help to deck you, ladies, in your winter dresses.

*Fem.* How, Brother?

### The E R M I N E.

*Gilb.* The Ermine is of the Weasel kind, brown in summer, and otherwise called a Stoat; but in winter it assumes the delicate white fur, so much admired.

### The S A B L E.

*Fem.* The Sable is most expensive;—whence comes it?

*Gilb.* From *Siberia*.

*Fem.* It is very beautiful; because, as it has no grain, it always looks to advantage.

*Gilb.* Your heart would ach when you wore your tippets, if you knew the sufferings

sufferings of those who procure the furs.

*Fem.* I suppose it is their own choice, is it not?

*Gilb.* No : condemned criminals are sent from *Russia* into the wild and extensive forests, covered with snow, and obliged to furnish skins, else they are punished. The *Russian* soldiers too are sent.

*Fem.* It is really melancholy to reflect upon the hardships that poor people endure, in procuring our ornaments.— How are the Sables caught?

*Gilb.* They are shot with a blunt arrow, lest the skins should be hurt.

*Fem.* How large are they?

*Gilb.* Oh ! very small, as well as the Ermines : the square piece that can be had from one skin is exceedingly small. What a number of the poor little animals  
forfeit

( 29 )

forfeit their lives, to furnish one muff or tippet !

*Fem.* Indeed it grieves me.—Here comes *Bernard* to call us.

[*Exeunt.*



c 3

DIA

DIALOGUE IV.

---

*Children assembled.*

*James.* I FIND the lectures went on in our absence.

*Gilb.* We amused ourselves.

GENET and CIVET.

*James.* *Femima* has told me. But you omitted the Cat of *Constantinople*, called Genet, and the Civet.

*Gilb.* I had not heard of the Genet.

*James.* It is in no part of *Europe*, except *Spain* and *Turkey*; it is cleanly and tame, and kills mice; like the Civet, it smells sweet.

*Fem.* Do you call Civet sweet?

*James.* It is certainly so esteemed; else the creatures that supply it, would not be kept



kept in boxes wired like cages, and emptied of their perfume twice or thrice in a week.

*Edm.* It is said to perspire a strong perfume, and that no person could bear to be confined in a room with it.

*Fem.* Where are they found?

*James.* In *Turkey, India, Africa*——

*Edm.* And in *Holland*, I think. But, Brother, you said you would entertain us with an account of the LEMING.

### L E M I N G.

*James.* I will.—In *Scandinavia* there is a little creature, no larger than the Dormouse, called a LEMING; it is so extraordinary, that some faith is required to give credit to the accounts we have of it.

*Fem.* Is that the little animal that is said to be neither stopped by fire nor water?

*James.* It is.

*Gilb.*

*Gilb.* Well, it is happily not a very terrible creature.

*Edm.* Indeed you mistake ; though a single one might be contemptible, their number renders them very formidable ; this you will believe, when I tell you, that they move in a square of a mile in breadth ; millions in a troop deluge the plains ; they march in the night, and rest during the day.

*Gilb.* Their food ?

*James.* All vegetables ; and after marching, they make great devastation.

*Fem.* Is there no method of destroying them ?

*James.* They often divide into two armies, and destroy each other ; but their destruction is dreadful, for their carcases infect the air.

*Edm.* When their progress is interrupted by a house, they will stay till they die.

*Fem.*

## MADAGASCAR BAT.

*Jem.* This reminds me of the *Madagascar* Bat, which Mr. *L'Estrange* mentioned having seen.

*Gilb.* I was not present.

*Jem.* They are of the size of a large Hen, I think, and fly in clouds that darken the air by day; and by night destroy the fruits.

*Gilb.* I tremble at the sound of them; I am glad that the fruits content them.

*James.* Not so: they will settle upon animals, and even man.

*Gilb.* What a noise their wings alone must make! Do they utter any cry?

*James.* They may be heard, at night, two miles, with an horrible din.

*Edm.* It is thought possible, that the Fable of the Harpies might take its rise from them.

The

The AMERICAN VAMPIRE is rather less : in towns and cities, they cover the streets like a canopy.

*Gilb.* And are they hurtful?

*Edm.* They enter the chambers in the night (for in those hot countries the doors are necessarily left open); and, fastening upon a person asleep, will suck the blood, so that the person often dies.

*Gilb.* They must sleep very fast, not to be awaked by the bite.

*Edm.* Some think that they make no wound, or, if they do, it is with great precaution : besides, it is supposed that the gentle refreshing agitation of the Bats' wings contributes to encrease sleep, and soften the pain.

*James.* I remember that Mr. *L'Estrange* said, he thought the most rational conjecture was, that the Bat drew the blood by suction, without wound ; and that it  
continued



continued to flow after the Bat was gone off.

*Gilb.* I shall never see a Bat without thinking of that of *Madagascar*, and the *American Vampyre*.

*Jem.* How thankful we have reason to be, that we have so few creatures that are hurtful !

*James.* In some countries, even an insect is capable of occasioning death.

## S E R P E N T S.

*Gilb.* We have Serpents.

*James.* But one that is noxious. The Viper only is hurtful.

*Jem.* I thought the Slow-worm——

*James.* No ; the Serpent race are held in general detestation ; and the vulgar imagine many of our reptiles, whose figure disgusts their eye, to be venomous ; but it is all foolish prejudice.

*Gilb.*



## FROGS and TOADS.

*Gilb.* The Gardener always kills the Frogs and Toads ; and I have often wished he would spare the poor Frogs.

*Fem.* *Betty* always calls to him to kill that Frog, " lest it should be a Toad ;" for she says it would be dangerous to go near enough to examine which it is.

*James.* What injury does she fancy it would do to her, if it should prove a Toad ?

*Fem.* Spit at her ; and its saliva—

*James.* Ridiculous !—it has a faculty of emitting a juice from its pimples ; but the poor creature is perfectly innoxious, as it has been proved by many experiments.

*Edm.* It is a terrible circumstance, that many animals lose their lives by the folly and ignorance of the common people.

*Fem.*

*Jem.* The prints of Serpents darting out their frightful tongues, excite horror. Yet my Mama tells me there is no harm in their tongue.

*James.* Nor even in their teeth, those excepted which are purposely designed to convey the poison into the wound.

*Gilb.* Have only the venomous kinds those teeth?—and have they not a sting?

*James.* No other; and their tails are as hurtless as their tongues. A poisonous Serpent has a small bone, closely fixed to the upper jaw, which has a power of moving backward or forward. When the Serpent is enraged, he darts the fangs that are fixed in this bone, forward; otherwise they are withdrawn and concealed, like the claws of a cat in a peaceable humour.

*Gilb.* But has the Serpent any poisonous juice, like the Bee?

*James.* Each of those terrible weapons somewhat resembles a pen; and is provided with a fluid, which, being conveyed into the blood, produces most dreadful, and often fatal, effects.

### AMERICAN RATTLESNAKE.

*Edm.* I heard a gentleman say, that, in *North America*, the people would take out these venomous fangs; and then suffer even the Rattlesnake to bite them, without suffering any injury.

*Gilb.* I saw the *rattle* of the Rattlesnake once: it is like the chain of a curb bridle: it was at *Mrs. Rust's*; and she told me, that the creature often caught a bird, or squirrel, by looking earnestly at it: is it true?

*James.* The *American Rattlesnake* is the most indolent of all the Serpents. As he lies under the shade of a tree, opening his jaws a little, he fixes his eyes  
which

which glitter very brightly, upon any little creature that is upon it: the poor little thing will frisk about, seemingly in distress; and, at last, throw itself into the jaws of its enemy.

*Edm.* An experiment was tried in *England*, with a Rattlesnake and a Mouse in a box.

*Gilb.* And how did it end?

*Edm.* The Mouse threw itself into the mouth of the Serpent. And, in *Italy*, a Viper discovered the same fascinating power.

*James.* A *Swedish* Writer says, that the Toad will catch Butterflies, and other insects, in the same manner.

*Fem.* I believe I love to be frightened; for I delight in hearing accounts of creatures, of whom the name makes one shudder with horror. I was very much entertained, the day that *Mr. Ramble*



talked of Serpents: he mentioned one, whose bite occasioned almost instant death: I cannot recollect the name.

*James.* COBRA di CAPELLO;  
or, HOODED SERPENT.

*Jem.* That was it: the bite, he said, was incurable.

*James.* And it causes death in half an hour; the whole frame being dissolved into one mass of corruption.

*Gilb.* What size is that kind?

*James.* From three to eight feet.

*Gilb.* Here comes *Bernard*, running.

*Bern.* I have done my lessons; and my Mama sent me to ask if I might be with you.

*James.* There are many Serpents without venom, which yet are formidable.

*Bern.* I have read of Serpents that would devour Oxen.

*Gilb.* Fables, I suppose.

*James.*



*James.* Perhaps not. We are told by Naturalists, that the growth of a Serpent has no bounds ; for they change their skins once, if not twice, every year.

*Bern.* Change their skins ! how do they get out of the old ones ?

*James.* They burst.

*Gilb. Bernard,* we have been hearing a great deal about the Rattlesnake : you remember seeing the rattle ?

*Bern.* Oh, yes : I wish I had been here : how can they reach to bite ?

*James.* They stand erect upon their tail, throw back their head, and inflict a wound in a moment.

*Bern.* Is their bite very fatal ?

*James.* Some die in five or six hours : very few have been known to recover.

*Gilb. Bernard !* those Arrows that we saw, and my Mama desired us not to touch,

touch, were dipped in the poison of the Rattlesnake.

*Bern.* Is the Rattlesnake very large?

*James.* From five to six feet long.

*Fem.* Is it true, that the venom of a Serpent may be swallowed without injury?

*James.* It has been frequently tried, and proved to be harmless in the stomach.

## D R A G O N.

*Bern.* I do not wonder, that *St. George* should be so famous for killing the DRAGON; for a great Serpent with wings must be dreadful indeed!

*James.* My dear little Boy, that is all fabulous. A Dragon is only an imaginary being, invented by the Poets and Painters; or, rather, compounded of two or three animals.

*Gilb.*

*Gilb.* Is there no such thing as a winged Serpent?

### FLYING LIZARD.

*James.* There is a little Flying Lizard, which is very beautiful, and perfectly harmless, that might contribute to the false reports. Terror might mislead some traveller to imagine it much larger than it really was; and love of the marvellous, to represent it as larger than even his fear had pictured it.

*Gilb.* I always supposed the accounts of slaying dreadful winged Serpents were false.

*James.* The wings were added, doubtless—and, probably, many other circumstances: yet all accounts of Heroes destroying Serpents were, perhaps, not without foundation—in countries thinly inhabited, where the Serpents, by time and rapacity, were grown to the amazing

length of a hundred or a hundred and fifty feet.

*Bern.* Merciful !—they might swallow the house !

*James.* The stench of these enormous Serpents must be intolerable. Supposing one to have lived for ages in an unpeopled forest, and to be, consequently, grown to an immense size ; if such a creature should make its appearance in a more cultivated part of the country, it would occasion a degree of consternation beyond our conception :—now, would not the man, who should venture to attack such a monster, be justly esteemed a hero—a benefactor to his country ?

*Edm.* Indeed, if such a Serpent had but *one* head, the killing it might well lead the Heathens to deify the man who should kill it.

*Bern.* Has any Serpent more ?

*Edm.*



*Edm.* The fable of *Hercules* killing the *Hydra* with seven heads, which grew again as often as they were cut off, was what I alluded to.

*Jem.* But is there not a Serpent called by a name which signifies *two heads*?

*James.* There is one that moves with either end forward, called

*AMPHISBÆNA*, or *DOUBLE-HEAD*.

*Gilb.* Serpents are amphibious, I think?

*James.* They are. There are some circumstances in which most of them agree; such as, lying torpid in the winter—enduring long fasts.

*Edm.* You know, *Jemima*, those little Serpents from *Grand Caira* had lived some years, in the glasses, without food.

*James.* All animals of prey can endure abstinence; else they must be famished when they happen to be unsuccessful



cessful in their capture. But Serpents exceed all others in their power of fasting: a single meal will sometimes last them a season.

*Gilb.* There are more wonders relating to Serpents, surely, than any creatures.

*James.* Those meals are considerable.

*Fem.* Bernard's Ox, I suppose, — the bones would take some time to digest.

*James.* They are fitted to their mode of life. As they do not pursue their prey, it is necessary that they should be so formed, as to subsist by taking a substantial meal once in a great while.

The J A V A,

In the *East-Indies*, will devour a Buffalo.

*Fem.* This Buffalo sticks in my throat: I know not how it fares with the Java.

*James.* Serpents can swallow an animal whose head is three times as big as their own.

*Fem.* How can that be?

*James.* The jaws are held together by a stretching muscular skin: the throat dilates, like stretching leather: the stomach receives a part, the gullet the rest; and they will even leave a part sticking out of their mouth till putrefaction takes place. But I should have premised, that the Serpent covers the animal with saliva, which makes it the easier to swallow.

*Edm.* The back-bone is singular; for, whereas that of most quadrupeds has thirty or forty joints, that of a Serpent has a hundred and seventy; the bones playing one within the other, like ball and socket: they have two hundred and ninety ribs.

*James.* They creep by an undulatory motion; erect the scales in a small degree: the edges catch in the ground, like the nails in the wheel of a chariot,

and so promote and facilitate the animal's progressive motion.

*Bern.* Do not Worms move in the same manner?

*James.* The Naturalists distinguish them thus: "The *serpentine* progression" they define, bending the body like an arch. Of the *vermicular* (that of Worms) they say, that the EARTH-WORM has no backbone; but the body is composed of rings, which, like a barber's puff, it can lengthen or shorten.

*Bernard.* What kinds of Serpents have we in England?

## V I P E R.

*James.* The Viper, whose bite is sometimes fatal, is the only one that is venomous.

## COMMON SNAKE.

The common Snake is the largest of  
our

our *English* Serpents (sometimes exceeding four feet in length), but perfectly harmless.

### S L O W   W O R M.

The Slow Worm, or Blind Worm, is dreaded by the common people, but without any reason. It has its names from the slowness of its motion, and the smallness of its eyes.

*Bern.* How long is it?

*James.* About eleven inches—about so much.

*Bern.* Then that was the little creature I stepped over one day; and *Mary* thought I had a great escape that I was not hurt.

*Jem.* I hate the name of a Viper, more on account of its devouring its young, than from fear of receiving injury from its bite.

*James.*



*James.* Let me vindicate it from such an aspersions, by assuring you, it is so far from devouring its offspring, that it receives them into its throat, as an *asylum*, to secure them from danger. The food of the Viper is frogs, toads, lizards, mice, and sometimes moles, and young birds.

*Edm.* When under confinement, they will not feed; for if mice (their favourite food) be thrown into the box, though they kill, they will not eat them: neither do they take their annual repose, when confined.

*James.* The dry, stony, and, in particular, the chalky countries abound with Vipers.



## DIALOGUE V.

*Children walking and conversing—*BERNARD  
*caressing a little Dog,*

Edm. **W**HEN we get to our intended place, that little Dog will take your attention from what passes. Bernard.

Bern. No, Brother; I shall listen as much as if he were not there.

Jem. It is an odd little Cur.

Bern. I love it, because it is so fond of me.

D O G S.

Jem. What a variety of Dogs there are!

Edm. Very great, indeed!

James.

*James.* It is said there is no wild Dog found in the world.

*Edm.* I thought there had, in *America*.

*James.* The *Europeans* carried them into *America*, and there abandoned them. They have multiplied, and spread in packs: they will attack all animals; and even man does not pass without insult: yet they are easily tamed.

*Gilb.* *England* has been famous for Dogs.

*Edm.* *Great Britain* was so famous for its mastives, that the *Roman Emperors* appointed an officer in this island, whose business it was, to transmit from hence to the *Amphitheatre* such as would prove equal to the combat of the place.

*James.* The Mastives of *Britain* were trained for war, and were used by the *Gauls* in their battles; and it is supposed that a well-trained Mastiff might be of great

great use in distressing such irregular combatants, as those whom the *Gauls* contended with before the *Romans* conquered them.

*Jem.* I suppose it was from this circumstance, that *Shakespeare* speaks of letting "loose the dogs of war."

*James.* Mastiff is said to be derived from *Mase Thefese*, being supposed to frighten away robbers by its tremendous voice.

*Edm.* *Bernard's* is a *Wappe*; which name, I am told, is derived from its note.

*Bern.* I am almost tired with my morning's walk. I wish I had something to ride upon, if it were but an *Ass*.

A S S.

*Gilb.* There are enough of them upon every common.

*James.*

*James.* Yet, during the reign of *Queen Elizabeth*, the breed was entirely lost. An old Author says, "Our lande did  
"yeelde no Asses."

*Fem.* Of what country was the Ass originally?

*James.* *Arabia*, and other parts of the *East*. They are finest in a warm climate. They are a rarity in *Sweden*; and it is supposed that they have not reached *Norway*.

*Fem.* The accounts of foreign animals are certainly very entertaining; yet I feel more interested in the nature of such as are to be seen in my own country.

*James.* Indeed, one should not be ignorant with respect to them—any more than we ought to travel into a foreign country, before we have acquainted ourselves thoroughly with our own.

## INSECTS.

*Edm.* We cannot look around us in the garden, or field; but we see wonderful objects; particularly when we attend to the numerous tribes of insects.

*James.* I have lately met with some remarks upon Insects, which I mean to copy, and add to those of our last meeting, for *Walter*.

## S N A I L.

*Gilb.* I have often wondered to see the shell of a Snail: does it grow as the animal grows?

*James.* The Snail leaves the egg with a shell the size of a pin's head, with two circumvolutions: the rest is added as the Snail grows larger: the addition is made at the mouth.

*Gilb.* How?

*James.*



*James.* The whole body is furnished glands, from the orifices of which flows out a kind of slimy fluid, like Spider's threads: this joins together in one common crust, or surface; and, in time, condenses, and acquires a stony hardness.

*Fem.* I suppose that the covering, with which it closes its shell in the winter, is of the same nature.

*James.* It is; as well as the shining track, or path, that the Snail leaves wherever it crawls.

*Gilb.* I know they can repair their shells when they are broken.

*Fem.* And are the shells entirely composed of this juice?

*James.* This fluid is the cement; but it is supposed that some stony substance may be fixed by it,

PEARL

## PEARL OYSTER.

*Edm.* Pearls are supposed to be produced accidentally by the same matter that goes to the forming of the shell of the Oyster. When they are cut through, they appear to be of several coats, like an onion; and sometimes there is found a small speck in the midst, upon which the coats are formed.

*Gilb.* What is the Mother of Pearl?

*Edm.* The lining of the shell.

*Jem.* Whence do those Oysters come?

*Edm.* The most famous of the *Asiatic* fisheries is in the *Persian* Gulph.

*Gilb.* I have heard, that the fishing for them is a dreadful employment.

*James.* The heart of a compassionate woman would ach, to think of the hardships endured in procuring her ornaments. Three or four hundred boats go out, with  
each

each from five to eight divers. They go without clothing. Each has a rope and weight, and a bag about his neck. The most robust man (if he should escape the jaws of a shark, and various other dangers incident to his profession) may live five years.

*Gilb.* I thought divers went down in bells.

*Edm.* Some do.

## DIALOGUE VI.

*JAMES sitting in his Closet—A Youth with him at a Desk—Enter the rest.*

*James.* **Y**OU see me very busy. My Papa has engaged young *Plume* to assist me. He is an excellent writer. See, what a hand!—And he is so expeditious, that his pen would keep pace with—even a girl's tongue.

*Fem.* You are very facetious, Brother; but I hope rather to hear, than speak.

*James.* *Plume* can be of great service in arranging my scattered papers, and copying more neatly the whole upon one subject together; for, till they are so collected, I am not able to read to you;  
and

and I am not always prepared for answering all questions *extempore*.

*Edm.* I hope this will enable us to gratify our dear *Walter's* curiosity.

*Fem.* His desire after information is as eager as that of any little boy in *England*.

*Gilb.* And his brotherly affection will make this doubly sweet to him.

*Edm.* This secretary is a great acquisition.

*Plume.* I am very happy to be retained in the service of so good a gentleman as *Mr. Worthy*. My poor Father's circumstances were such, that I was in the greatest distress. It is a great satisfaction to me, to be able to assist the family of my benefactor.

*Edm.* Dear *Plume*! do not talk of obligation.

*James.* I hope, against our next meeting, to have got a few Papers in advance  
transcribed:



transcribed : at present, you must accept them as my friend has been able to copy them for our perusal.

“ ASBESTOS—AMIANTHUS.

“ A fossil, of which is made a kind of  
 “ cloth, like linen, that may be thrown  
 “ into the fire, and taken out again un-  
 “ consumed.—This cloth was known  
 “ among the ancients, and used by them  
 “ on several occasions. At present, it  
 “ goes by the name of the *incombustible*  
 “ *Linen*. It was found out by mere ac-  
 “ cident in these parts. A huntsman, in  
 “ want of wadding, observed in the  
 “ woods a stone, which seemed to have  
 “ some flakes upon it like loose threads ;  
 “ and that, having fired his piece, the  
 “ powder had no effect upon the wad-  
 “ ding.”

Edm. Friendship has a robe of this  
 kind given her, in a poem lately pub-  
 VOL. II. E. lished :

lished : I was very much pleased with the thought.

*RUSSIAN BABA——PELICAN.*

*James.* In the same Travels, I met with a remark, that a bird, called in *Russia BABA*, appeared to the Author to be the *PELICAN*. He had a long bag under his bill, which he filled with small fishes, and from thence supplied his young. Perhaps this gave rise to the fable of that bird feeding its young with its own blood.

*Edm.* I mentioned this one day to a friend, who observed, that the Pelican, Stork, Heron, Pigeon, and Turtle have a power of disgorging their food to feed their young ; and since that, I read an account of the Pelican of *Africa* and *America* ; a water-fowl, which, the Author assures us, was once known in *Europe*. He describes it as being larger than

than the Swan, web-footed, and having a pouch under the bill, capable of containing fifteen quarts of water, and which can be writhed under the hollow of the bill. This serves to macerate food for the young; and she fills it for her own convenience.—It is represented as an indolent, gluttonous fowl.—The bag is sometimes made into pouches or purses.

### The

### CORMORANT—(MUSCOVY DUCK)

Is described as voracious and gluttonous: its voice is hoarse and croaking: it perches upon trees; builds upon trees, or cliffs of rocks; preys by day or night: its food is fish.

"There was anciently a law in Norway, that whoever climbed so on the cliffs (in pursuit of fowl) that he fell

“ down and died, was refused burial in  
“ sanctified earth, as being too full of  
“ temerity, and his own destroyer—un-  
“ less his next kinsman would go the  
“ same way.”

The ROCK

(The CONDOR of *America*) is terrible to  
man.

The VULTURE

(Of *Grand Cairo*)

Its scent is exquisite: its food, carrion  
and filth.

The EAGLE

Will live an hundred years. One was  
known to be twenty-one days without food.

A SWAN

Is said to live three hundred years.

A GOOSE,

It is said, will reach to eighty years.

A PAR-

## A P A R R O T

Will live twenty-five or twenty-six years.

*James.* I did purpose to entertain you with an account of the REIN DEER, collected from a variety of Authors: but there is one so ample, just published, in a volume of Select Dissertations translated from different *Swedish* Writers, that I rather choose to refer you to that, as you will there meet with variety of entertaining Papers upon Natural History.

## The S T A G

Is said to be five years before he is full-grown, and to live forty years; to be delighted with the shepherd's pipe, and sometimes allured by music to destruction.

## S H E E P,

On the *Alps*, and in *France*, we are told, will follow the sound of the pipe; and that,



that, there, the shepherd and pipe are still continued, with true antique simplicity.

### CHEVROTIN—GUINEA DEER—

Is seven inches high, and twelve from the point of his nose to the insertion of his tail. He has legs the size of a tobacco-pipe. He is completely and delicately formed; a perfect Stag in miniature. It cannot endure the rigours of our climate.

### The GAZELLE

Has eyes brilliant and meek, which furnished the ancient Poets with a happy comparison for those of their mistresses.

DIA-

## DIALOGUE VII.

Scene, *The Parlour.*

*Mrs. WORTHY at work—Enter JEMIMA.*

*Jem.* **M**AMA! Sally has been picking up some berries, that look like black cherries; and she wished to eat them—but I dissuaded her.

*Mrs. W.* You did well: let me see them: they are the berries of the LAUREL, called CHERRYLAUREL. I know not whether the fruit be noxious; but the leaves are so in a high degree, when distilled.

*Jem.* Dear Mama! *Mrs. Spicer* puts Laurel-leaves into the custards and *blanc manger*.

*Mrs.*

*Mrs. W.* I shall desire her not to do it; for there have been instances of weakly people suffering inconvenience even from so small a quantity; and the distilled water is one of the strongest poisons we have.

*Jem.* Is the Laurel a native of *England*?—I think not.

*Mrs. W.* It is a native of the *East*, and grows naturally about the *Black Sea*. It was first brought into *Europe* by *Clusius*, in 1576, and is spread over *Italy* and the greatest part of *Europe*.

*Jem.* Surely I met with nearly the same account, lately, of the

### C H E R R Y B A Y.

*Mrs. W.* It is the same thing; and your account was, that it was first brought from *Trapagus*, a city near the *Euxine Sea*, to *Constantinople*; and from  
thence

thence into *Italy, France, Germany, and England.*

*Fem.* It seems very innocent.

*Mrs. W.* There are some poisonous plants that are peculiarly dangerous, from the circumstance of having nothing disagreeable in the scent or flavour to deter people from tasting: nay, some are even pleasant. Thus they appear, by the evidence of the senses, to be perfectly harmless; but they are deceitful indeed! being, of all poisons, the most deadly; sometimes occasioning immediate death, and even without any traces of poison. The Laurel is one of those.

*Fem.* Mama, are there many of those very dangerous plants?

*ÆNANTHE CICUTA;*

or, HEMLOCK DROPWORT.

*Mrs. W.* The *Ænanthe Cicuta*, or Hemlock Dropwort, is another. This grows



on the banks of the *Thames*, and other rivers ; flowers in *July* ; and is the most terrible poison among the vegetables : the smell of this will occasion giddiness. Then there is the

### *CICUTA AQUATICA.*

which I once shewed you by the name of  
**WATER HEMLOCK.**

It is common on the banks of several rivers in *England*, and fond of the still, soft, muddy side of lakes and stagnant waters. — These two are natives of our Island.

### **H E N B A N E.**

*Jem.* The Henbane, I think, my Papa said, was poisonous : is that a native of *Great-Britain* ?

*Mrs. W.* It is ; and the only species of Henbane that is so. The seeds, leaves, and roots are all poisonous—but the root in a superior degree : *that* will occasion madness ;



madness ; and, if not rejected by vomiting, death.

*Fem.* The greatest danger is from the tempting berries : the root is not likely to be taken, I think.

*Mrs. W.* These roots are, probably, the unsuspected cause of much mischief ; for the plant is often found in dunghills, and its roots, mixed with muck, introduced into our gardens ; whence, as they so much resemble Parsnips, they are carried into the kitchen.

### P A R S N I P.

*Fem.* Mama ! the Gardener told me one day, that Parsnips became poisonous by growing too long in the same ground. I would not seem to doubt the truth ; but I thought it very strange, and designed to ask you.

*Mrs. W.* It was the conjecture of a learned man : so we will pardon *Pot* for adopting

adopting the notion. But it has been proved, in some cases, that the disorders imputed to Parsnips were occasioned by a mixture of the roots of Henbane.

### DEADLY NIGHTSHADE.

*Jem.* How much the berries of the Deadly Nightshade resemble the small Black Cherry! Poor children may well fancy they have found a prize when they meet with them.

*Mrs. W.* The only security for children is, to be guided by the discretion of others, and to yield an implicit obedience to their parents and friends. I trust you would not eat of any berries, however alluring, without leave?

*Jem.* Is it only the *berry* of the Nightshade that is hurtful?

*Mrs. W.* The whole plant is poisonous. It generally proves fatal to children. Men have been known to con-  
tinue

tinue in a state of madness several days, if they survived.

*Fem.* I often see the Deadly Nightshade growing very plentifully upon new banks: it is a very handsome plant; but I forget the time of flowering.

*Mrs. W.* In *June*. It grows in woods and hedges, and where the ground is rich from manure: thus, it is often found in the neighbourhood of towns and houses. It is a native of *England*.

*Fem.* Is it not called *Dwale*?

*Mrs. W.* It is—and *Solanum Lethale*: it is said to have acquired the name of *Belladonna*, from being used by the *Italian* ladies as a cosmetic.

### M O N K S H O O D.

*Fem.* *Mama!* is the Monkshood poisonous? or does *Betty* only tell the little ones so, to prevent them from meddling with it?

*Mrs. W.* I hope *Betty* never deceives you : and I hope that her injunction would deter the children from touching it, without any assurance of its bad qualities.

*Fem.* We had a great mind to know, whether it was poisonous or not ; for my Brother *James* says, he has read somewhere that it is not.

*Mrs. W.* *Linnaeus* asserted, that Monks-hood was not poisonous : but it is supposed to be the yellow kind. What we have growing is the blue, and that certainly is so. It grows spontaneously in *Germany*, and some other northern parts of *Europe* : in *England*, it is cultivated for ornament.

*Fem.* I wonder people should choose to have it in their gardens, where children—

*Mrs. W.* My dear Girl ! no precaution can secure children who are ungovernable :

ble  
gen  
whi  
ther  
J  
taste  
M  
dan  
J  
for  
wou  
that  
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I am  
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its fa

ble :



ble: but if they will be obedient to the general prohibition laid on all things which they have not permission to eat, then they will be safe.

*Jem.* Indeed, Mama, I would not taste any thing without your leave.

*Mrs. W.* Then you will not be in danger of poison.

*Jem.* It is only out of curiosity, and for the pleasure of hearing—I wish you would tell me all the poisonous plants that grow in *England*.

*Mrs. W.* I will tell you some, of which I am certain.

### DOG's MERCURY

Is very common. It is beautifully green, when verdure is scarce, and will flourish where other plants languish; but we are told that it is noxious both to man and beast. Many instances are recorded of its fatal effects.



## The THORN APPLE.

This is admitted by *Withering* as a native; but, as he says "it is common among rubbish about *London*," it is very probable that the seeds have been dispersed by accident in those places, and that it was originally cultivated in the gardens for its singularity; the leaves rising up at night, and inclosing the flower.

## The HEMLOCK

Grows in hedges, orchards, and amongst rubbish: it blossoms in *June* and *July*. There are some others (particularly the *Cow-WEED*, or *WILD CICELY*) that very nearly resemble it; but there are spots upon the stalk, that serve as a certain mark of distinction.—It is most luxuriant where the soil is rich and moist.

*Fem.* What parts are poisonous?

*Mrs.*

Mrs. W. The whole plant.

Jem. I am sure, Mama, I have heard of Hemlock being used in medicine.

Mrs. W. Many poisons are excellent medicines, when administered with skill; and what is fatal to one part of the creation affords wholesome nourishment to another.—Thrushes are so fond of the seeds of Hemlock, that their crops have been found full of them, even when corn was very plentiful. Sheep eat the leaves.

### BUG AGARIC.

Jem. Many of the MUSHROOMS, I know, are poisonous: is there not one sort called *Bug Agaric*, because it destroys those insects?

Mrs. W. There is: it will destroy them, if it be rubbed upon the parts of the bed where they retreat in the day. It is called *Agaricus Muscarius* for a similar reason; for the inhabitants of the

North of *Europe* infuse it in milk, and set it in the windows : as soon as the Flies taste it, they are poisoned.

*Fem.* Edmund told me, that the *Russians* ate them——how——

*Mrs. W.* People drink Gin. It is supposed that they like the intoxicating quality of the Agaric : but this does not prove that either is innoxious. The Bug Agaric has occasioned madness—it has occasioned death.

### The PEPPER AGARIC

Is common in woods, particularly at the roots of trees. When any part of the *Fungus* is wounded, a cream-coloured liquor, extremely acrid, distils from it. —There are a few other plants suspected to be poisonous—among which is the Common Nightshade.

*Fem.* I was very attentive, when my Papa was conversing with a Gentleman who

who had been so great a traveller——he spoke of the bad effect of sitting under the MANCHINEEL tree——I cannot think of his name.

*Mrs. W.* His name does not signify—  
Go on.

*Jem.* Somebody said, that travellers often judged whether the fruits were wholesome or not, by observing whether the birds had pecked at them. But if different animals vary so much, that one is destroyed by what is proper food for another, surely that must be a very uncertain mark——Is there no other?

*Mrs. W.* Botanists have some criterions by which they form a judgment. Thus,

Plants which have a nectarium distinct from the petals, are commonly poisonous.

Milky plants are mostly poisonous.

Plants with a pea flower are all wholesome for cattle and man.



Yet the same plant growing in a different soil, varies so much from itself, that some uncertainty will arise from that circumstance.

*Fem.* I do not quite understand you, Mama.

*Mrs. W.* I will give you an example or two. A moist soil renders many plants corrosive.

### SWEET SMALLAGE (CELERY)

When spontaneous in watery places, is acrid and nauseous, nay, even hurtful: but, when cultivated in a drier soil, and properly managed, how excellent it is in our fallads and soups!

### LETTUCES

Are said to be narcotic, and to have that quality in a greater degree when they are neglected; for you know the Gardener ties them close, so as to deprive them of a part of the moisture; else they would be bitter.

EN-



ENDIVE,

Too, is rendered palatable by culture.

LAVENDER.

*Jem.* I have observed, that LAVENDER is sweetest in a dry soil.

*Mrs. W.* It is the case with all aromatic plants. They have likewise the best taste when they are dried.

*Jem.* But there are many plants in *England*, besides those you have mentioned, that are poisonous, surely?

*Mrs. W.* Those I named were such as are either native, or are cultivated in our gardens. — Now go and walk.

# DIALOGUE VIII.

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Scene, *A Parlour.*

*Mrs. WORTHY sitting—Enter*  
*Miss TRIFLE.*

*Miss Trifle.* **M**ADAM! my servant  
waits : I come to take  
my leave.

*JEMIMA runs in.*

*Jem.* Mama ! I am come to appeal to  
you —— Do not many flowers close  
against rain ? —— *Miss Trifle* and I have  
had a violent dispute.

*Mrs. W.* My dear, I am sorry you  
should enter into a dispute.

*Miss Trifle.* There, Miss ! I knew it  
was a ridiculous notion.

*Jem.*

*Jem.* Dear Mama! you will not allow her to fancy she is in the right?

*Mrs. W.* I will not leave her in so great an error. There are many plants and flowers, from whose appearance we may judge of the state of the air. But you, *Jemima*, ought never to be so positive.

*Jem.* Mama, I was certain it was so: my Papa told me yesterday, and shewed me the——

*Mrs. W.* Not so fast: quit the subject for the present: you see your visitor retiring; attend her.——Good night.

[*Exeunt Girls.*]

*Re-enter JEMIMA.*

*Jem.* Mama, I long to talk about Plants. I remember——

*Mrs. W.* Your memory is very good on some occasions—but I wish you would retain the admonitions I give you. How

could you behave in so rude a manner? Miss *Trifle* has not had the advantages that you have : perhaps, if she *had*, she might have known more than you do.

*Fem.* Mama, she is as conceited as she is ignorant.

*Mrs. W.* Conceit and Ignorance are usually companions, *Femima* : take care they do not meet in you. When you have caught a little smatter on any subject (unconscious how deficient your knowledge of it is), you imagine yourself most profoundly——

*Fem. (interrupting)* I know more than Miss *Trifle* ; and it was so provoking in her to be positive——

*Mrs. W.* Her ignorance does not increase your knowledge. But were you perfectly versed in Botany ; nay, in every science that could be named ; I would relinquish all your learning for a gentle, amiable



amiable disposition. You ought to *pity*, and not *contemn*, the ignorance of those who have had fewer opportunities of improvement ; to endeavour, with mildness, to instruct them where you are able ; but rather by a *hint*, than with the air of superior *wisdom*. For a *child*—a *girl*—to assume such——

*Jem.* Oh ! dear Mama ! I am very much ashamed.

*Mrs. W.* I do not acquit Miss *Trifle* of obstinate incredulity ; and it had its due punishment ; for she went away in a great measure uninformed. It would have been a pleasure to me, to acquaint her with the few particulars I know, supposing that she would have relished them.

P I M P E R N E L, &c.

*Jem.* As I was walking with my Papa yesterday, he shewed me a small  
scarlet

scarlet flower, called Pimpernel; and said, "It will continue fair—for this is "quite expanded."—I observe that the *Convolvulus Minor* is always closed in the evening, and has not opened its flowers again by the time I walk into the garden in the morning. But I want to know a great deal more than my observation will ever teach me.

Mrs. W. Several plants are said to sleep—the position of their leaves changing during the night. They are observed to indulge in more sleep whilst young and tender; as do animals in their youth.

What seems wonderful, is, that plants placed in a stove heat (the same night and day) keep to their hours, whether the window-shutters of the stove be open or shut.

Botanists talk of the *watchings* or *vigils*

of

of Plants ; that is, the time of the day when their plants open or shut.

Such as observe a determinate time of day, are called SOLAR, and are of three sorts :

1. *Meteorical*—which observe the hour of expanding with less accuracy, but open sooner or later according to the degree of shade, moisture, dryness, greater or less pressure of the atmosphere, &c.

2. *Tropical*—which open in the morning, and shut before night ; but the time of their opening is sooner or later, as the days increase or decrease : therefore they observe the *Turkish*, or unequal hours.

3. *Equinoctial*—which open precisely at a certain hour of the day, and generally shut at a determinate hour ; and therefore observe *European*, or equal hours.

*Jem.* Mama, can you recollect some flowers that open and shut ?

The

## The VIOLET and WHITE AFRICAN MARYGOLD.

*Mrs. W.* The Violet and White *African* Marygold open at seven, and shut at three or four, if the weather be dry. If the Marygold do not open its flowers at seven in the morning, we are sure to have rain, except where rain is accompanied with thunder : the prognostic from this flower is then not to be depended upon.

## SIBERIAN SOW-THISTLE.

If the *Sonchus Sibiricus*, or *Siberian* Sow-thistle, shut up its flowers in the night, the following day is generally fine ; but if its flowers keep open all night, then the following day is generally rainy.

*Fem.* Mama ! I observe, that the few plants I have in my closet turn their leaves half round almost.

*Mrs.*



Mrs. W. They turn towards the light. If they were shut up, and found a hole in the wall, they would endeavour to penetrate.

### SUN-FLOWER, &c.

Fem. I have heard that the Sun-flower is called *Heliotrope*, because it turns to the Sun; but I never could find that the blossoms did really follow the course of the Sun.

Mrs. W. I never did: but we are told, that those plants with compound yellow flowers, in general, do, during the whole day, turn their flowers towards the Sun. The *Sonchus Arvensis*, Tree Sow-thistle, is mentioned particularly.

### DAISY.

Fem. Daisy is said to be from *Day's Eye*—is it not?

Mrs.

*Mrs. W.* Most plants, in a serene sky, expand their flowers, and seem, with cheerful looks, to behold the light of the Sun ; but before rain they shut them up. This preserves the dust, without which the flowers would be unfruitful. As soon as this fertilizing dust is shed, the flower ceases to close. I believe this is invariable.

### T U L I P, &c.

The Tulip, the flowers of *Draba Alpina* (*Alpine Whitlow Grass*), Bastard Feverfew, and Winter Green hang down in the night, as if the plants were asleep ; lest rain, or the moist air, should injure the fertilizing dust.

### T R E F O I L S, &c.

Trefoils, and one species of Wood Sorrel, shut up their leaves before storms and tempests, but in a serene sky expand

or

or unfold them.——Mountain Ebony, *Cassia*, and Sensitive Plants, observe the same rule.

### GOAT'S BEARD.

The flowers of Goat's Beard open in the morning, at the approach of the Sun, and shut at noon. It is hence called, *John Go to Bed at Noon*.

### TAMARIND TREE, &c.

*Parkinsonia*, Tamarind Tree, Bastard Sensitive Plant, and several others of the *Diadelphia* Class, in serene weather expand their leaves in the day-time, and contract them in the night.——The Tamarind Tree enfolds within the winged leaves, from which it springs, its flowers or fruit every night.

*Jem.* What is the name of the plant which *Sensibility* is described as having, in *Triumphs of Temper*?

MIMOSA

## MIMOSA—OXALIS.

*Mrs. W.* *Mimosa*—it is the Sensitive Plant; that, and the *Oxalis*, or Wood Sorrel. Some of them, upon being touched, roll up their leaves, turn downwards, and shrink; and after a little time extend them again, as if they had both life and sensation.

## THORN APPLE.

*Fem.* I recollect you mentioned, that the upper leaves of the Thorn Apple rose at night, and inclosed the flower.

*Mrs. W.* These are a small part of the wonders of the vegetable world.—Now observe, *Femima*: *This*, compared with your knowledge of *two* plants that varied their position, appears a vast deal to remember. But what is it, to that of a man of learning, who attends to the subject;



subject; who, by travelling, has an opportunity of remarking for himself the plants of other kingdoms; of which I can only read, and retail by rote what I remember of them?——

Let us admire the wonders of the creation—but retain a modest consciousness of our own ignorance.

DIALOGUE IX.

Scene, A Summer House.

Mrs. WORTHY and Miss JEMIMA at work

—The younger Girl (SALLY) runs in  
with a small Basket in her hand.

Sally. SEE, Sister! what pretty plants  
I have found!

Jem. (looking in and laughing) They are  
curious things!

Sally. They are very pretty. What  
are they, pray, Sister?

Jem. Only Moss.

Mrs. W. Why speak contemptuously?

Jem. Dear Mama! it is so common!

Mrs. W. It may not be the less curious.  
Bring your basket hither, Sally.

Sally.

*Sally.* Are they not very pretty, Mama?

*Mrs. W.* Yes, my Dear—Go and seek for some more——— [Exit Sally.

*Femima,* I want to talk with you: why did you speak in that flouting tone?

*Fem.* Mama, I thought they were worthless things.

*Mrs. W.* You were, perhaps, mistaken: but if they were of no use, yet—

*Fem.* Why, Mama, are they then of any use?

*Mrs. W.* There is a pertness in your manner, which disgusts me exceedingly;—a conceit, too, in imagining that you are capable of judging upon all occasions:—and that air of superiority in speaking to your Sister:—when the dear little Girl ran in, elated at the prize she had found, and thinking to delight you—then to damp her pleasure——

*Fem.*

*Fem.* Oh, dear Mama! I am *very* sorry and ashamed. I will seek for dear little *Sally*, and repair my fault. [*Exit.*]

*Mrs. W.* Amiable Girl! I wish she would reclaim that pertness. It arises, I trust, only from a redundance of vivacity: but it destroys the grace of every action, gives an apparent roughness to her manner, and makes even *me* sometimes doubtful of the tenderness of her disposition—till she recollects herself, and convinces me, that her fault proceeded from heedlessness alone.

(*After a pause, she speaks again to herself—  
with a sigh—*)

Perhaps I put *Femima* too forward—yet I do not see that girls who know less are less conceited. Perhaps I am quick-sighted to her faults, from my exceeding solicitude about her.—I have, however,



ever, this comfort (and an inconceivable one it is), that she is never sullen at rebuke; and if she have been betrayed into a little pertness, she humbles herself to the ground to repair her fault. I will hope——

(*Re-enter Girls.*)

Sally. See here, Mama! Sister has been helping me to gather

M O S S E S.

Fem. There are great variety; all beautiful, and many very delicate. I wonder I could overlook them.

Mrs. W. In truth, *Femima*, I employed Sally, as she walked with her maid, to pick up all she found—having planned the subject for the amusement of our noon hour.

Fem. Pray, Mama, pardon my fault, and indulge my curiosity.

*Mrs. W.* I have a paper upon Mosses, written by a friend of mine, who was likewise so obliging as to give me a few specimens of different kinds. You will find, my dear, that Mosses are far from being useless. Perhaps nothing is made in vain. But even where we see no use, it is never beneath us to admire the works of Infinite Wisdom. (*Smiling on Jemima.*)

*Jem.* (*kissing her Mama's hand*) Oh Mama! pray forget my folly. Is this the Paper?

*Mrs. W.* It is: you may read it aloud. Sally, go and play.

*Jemima reads.* "As I do not know of any thing written in *English* on this branch of Natural History, I shall translate a few of the best observations which have been made upon it.

"We are indebted to the *English*  
"Botanists

" Botanists for the first knowledge, and  
 " almost all the subsequent discoveries  
 " in this class of plants.

" The fashionable philosophy of the  
 " day endeavours to make up to the  
 " tribe of Mosses the contempt generally  
 " cast upon them.

### LIVERWORTS.

" The Liverworts are, some of them,  
 " the first foundation of vegetation :  
 " they spread themselves, although they  
 " have no other nourishment but that  
 " small quantity of mould which the  
 " rain and air bring to the most barren  
 " spots : these dying, turn to a fine earth.  
 " Then other Liverworts find a bed :  
 " these die ; and the various kinds of  
 " Mosses, *Hypna*, *Brya*, *Polytricha*, find  
 " a proper place and nourishment.  
 " These dying in their turn, and rotting,  
 " afford such a plenty of new-formed

“mould, that herbs and shrubs easily  
“root, and live upon it.

“They derive their principal nourish-  
“ment from pure water, which enters  
“into, and becomes part of the plant;  
“and this, by its mediation, is transf-  
“muted into another element.

“Vegetables in general, when their  
“juices are evaporated, lose their vege-  
“table life; nor is it in the power of  
“moisture to restore a common plant  
“which has been long in this state: but  
“Moss which has been ever so long in  
“this situation, almost instantly, when  
“sprinkled with water, recovers its for-  
“mer flourishing state, life, and colour.  
“It is this property which fits it so ad-  
“mirably for covering and preparing a  
“bed of vegetable mould upon dry rocks  
“for other plants.

HYP.



## HYPNUM.

“There is no limit to the growth of  
 “many species of this order—particularly  
 “of that elegant genus the *Hypnum*. As  
 “much of the bottom part as perishes  
 “and rots annually, is compensated by  
 “an equal shoot from the opposite extre-  
 “mity : we may therefore say, that the  
 “period of their life, as well as the ex-  
 “tent of their growth, admits no limit.

“Mosses are multiplied by seed, as  
 “well as other plants ; yet the form of  
 “the seed is exceeding singular.”

Mrs. W. You may omit what immedi-  
 ately follows ; for unless we had recourse  
 to the microscope, we cannot exemplify  
 it. You see there are very neat drawings  
 to explain the descriptions ; but we will  
 defer the examining them till your Papa  
 is present. I will read.

## CLUB MOSS.

*Mrs. W. reads.* " A species of the  
 " Club Moss was collected, with many  
 " superstitious ceremonies, by the *Dru-*  
 " *ids*; who esteemed the smoke of it a  
 " remedy to all disorders in the eyes.

## POLYTRICHUM.

" The *Roman Ladies* prepared an oint-  
 " ment from the common *Polytrichum*, to  
 " thicken the hair. From hence, possi-  
 " bly, it has its name, which signifies, in  
 " *Greek* (the language from which almost  
 " all the names of plants are borrowed),  
 " a great quantity of hair.

" The *Laplanders* make their beds of  
 " it.

" Many species of the *Liverwort* are  
 " supposed to be very useful in dying.

## " The REIN-DEER LIVERWORT

" Is the support of those animals in *Lap-*  
 " *land*, in the winter. In that country,  
 " almost

" almost all the Mosses grow in a very  
 " luxuriant state, exceeding thrice the  
 " size they acquire in *England*.

### " L U N G W O R T

" Is properly a species of this genus : it  
 " has many virtues assigned it—probably,  
 " most of them fictitious.

### *Ash-coloured* GROUND LIVERWORT

" Is the basis of *Mead's* remedy against  
 " the bite of a mad dog."

A *Swedish* Writer says, " When trees  
 " are cut down, the Liverworts begin to  
 " strike root in them, whence putrefac-  
 " tion follows, then the Mushrooms,  
 " &c. &c."

Another—" Nature has established a  
 " subordination, and the appearance of  
 " police, in the several tribes of vegeta-  
 " bles. Among these, we may consider  
 " the Mosses as the poor laborious pea-  
 " sants, occupying the most barren tracts  
 " of

" of the earth, which they cover and  
 " mollify ; and dedicating their services  
 " to the other plants, that their roots be  
 " not destroyed by the heat of the sun,  
 " or the rigour of the frost : those un-  
 " fertile tracts are allotted to them, which  
 " their fellow-citizens do not think worth  
 " occupying."——

" ——Our farmers in general are ig-  
 " norant of the use of Moss in raising of  
 " woods. They not only omit the use  
 " of it, but even very solicitously root it  
 " up ; being deceived by an idle preju-  
 " dice, that it naturally excludes all  
 " other plants. Yet they might derive  
 " great utility from the Mosses, by at-  
 " tending to the purpose of Nature in  
 " the production of these vegetables. By  
 " their covering the soil, they protect the  
 " roots of plants under it from the burn-  
 " ing heat of summers, and the excessive  
 " frosts



“frosts of the contrary seasons; and hinder their being buried in the dust the wind bears with it.”

*Mrs. W. speaks.* I have dwelt the longer upon this subject, because you seemed to despise it: but I will now quit it—only observing, that all my Extracts are designed solely to *excite*, not to *satisfy*, your curiosity. I wish to give you a taste for Natural History.—I should have told you, that a Naturalist has described near six hundred Mosses.

(*Enter a Servant with a Parcel, which he gives to Miss Jemima.*)

*Jem.* It is my Brother's hand.

[*She reads aloud.*

“DEAR SISTER,

“NOTHING could have been more  
“fortunate, than my Papa supplying me  
“with an *amanuensis*. It enables me to  
“pursue my darling studies at every  
“interval,

" interval, without fatigue, and with in-  
 " creased delight ; for I find my secretary  
 " a very intelligent youth, with an im-  
 " proved understanding, and a taste supe-  
 " rior to that of most of the young gen-  
 " tlemen, for polite learning.

" *Edmund* enters more into the spirit  
 " of Natural History than ever : we have  
 " all our separate branches ; and you  
 " may assure yourself, that the satisfac-  
 " tion of making you a partaker in our  
 " discoveries, is far from being our small-  
 " est pleasure.

" You seem to be at my elbow, as I  
 " read passages that I know would de-  
 " light you. Thus are you *absent* as if  
 " *present* ; the reverse of the injunction  
 " of a jealous young man to his mistress,  
 " when he was about to leave her in the  
 " company of one whom he suspected to  
 " be his rival.

" I ex-

" I expect to hear an account of your  
" studies. Do you pursue Botany? do  
" you cultivate flowers? Tell me all that  
" you do; for every thing is interesting  
" to me, that concerns you.

" I inclose a few papers for your  
" perusal. I am preparing some addi-  
" tions to our " Nature Delineated,"  
" which so agreeably employed us in the  
" summer holidays of 1779; but I have  
" no microscope, which, for insects, is  
" very useful.—Duty, love, &c.

" Your affectionate Brother,

" J. WORTHY."

( Inclosed )

*NAUTILUS.*

" The shell is divided into forty  
" partitions, that communicate with  
" each other by a door, through which  
" a goose-quill could not be thrust.  
" Almost the whole internal part is filled  
" with

" with the body of the animal. The  
 " body is divided into forty parts, com-  
 " municating with each other through  
 " the doors, or openings, by a long  
 " blood-vessel. It resembles (when taken  
 " out of the shell) forty soft bits of  
 " flesh threaded upon a string. It some-  
 " times quits its shell, perhaps by multi-  
 " plied removals. In the *Mediterranean*,  
 " it really does

" Spread the thin oar, and catch the flying  
 " gale."

" Its enemies are numerous and pow-  
 " erful, and it floats to avoid them."

### M U S S E L.

" The Muffel moves by making a sur-  
 " row with its tongue in the sand at the  
 " bottom, erecting itself upon the edge of  
 " its shell; and, with its tongue, it  
 " fixes the ends of its threads, which

" are.



"are glutinous, to rocks, &c. and lives  
"upon the little earthy particles that the  
"water transports to its shell, and perhaps  
"the flesh of most diminutive animals.—

"The natives of *Palermo* make gloves  
"and stockings of these threads. Is  
"there not a pair in the *British* Museum?

"The Pea Crab inhabits its shell; and  
"to that the vulgar falsely attribute the  
"swelling that is sometimes occasioned  
"by eating Mussels."

" P H O L A S

"Takes its name from lurking in cavi-  
"ties. *Pholades* are stationary, scooping  
"out habitations in marble.

"They are wonderful for the union of  
"such powers of penetration and appa-  
"rent imbecillity. The *Pholas* is some-  
"times found at the bottom of the water  
"in its proper shell; sometimes con-  
"cealed in lumps of marly earth;

“ sometimes lodged, shell and all, in the  
 “ hardest marble ; sometimes divested of  
 “ its shell, like a roundish soft pudding.

“ In the Temple of *Serapis*, at *Puteoli*,  
 “ were many pillars pierced by the *Pho-*  
 “ *las*, while buried under water by means  
 “ of the earthquake that swallowed up  
 “ that city. The apartment of this fish  
 “ resembles the bowl of a tobacco-pipe,  
 “ with a hollow shank, by which it en-  
 “ tered. If too much sea-water enter,  
 “ the animal spurts it out.

“ It is seven or eight inches long, and,  
 “ some say, esteemed a delicacy.”

### “ E C H I N U S

“ Resembles an animal shut up in a round  
 “ box. Whilst it is alive, it appears  
 “ like the husk of a chefnut, or a turnip  
 “ stuck with pins—running upon those  
 “ pins ; for its spines serve as legs, as

“ well

“ well as arms, and instruments of cap-  
 “ ture or defence. Soon after they are  
 “ taken, the spines drop off, and horns  
 “ withdraw into the body. They have  
 “ two thousand spines, and twelve hun-  
 “ dred horns.

“ I have seen several in a petrified  
 “ state, and the shells themselves, but  
 “ never saw one of them with the fish  
 “ alive in it.”

### “ ACORN SHELL-FISH.

“ I found one of these at *Harwich*,  
 “ and it had the appearance of a number  
 “ of leather thongs, with each a small  
 “ grey locket hung at the end. I have  
 “ since seen an engraving of it, and read  
 “ the following account: ‘ Each shell  
 “ contains an animal, which, in salt  
 “ water, throws out a great number of  
 “ little thread-like feelers in search of  
 “ prey:”

‘ prey : these feelers are feathered ; which  
 ‘ circumstance led our ancient *English*  
 ‘ Naturalists into odd kind of dreams :  
 ‘ your old friend *Gerard* has one that  
 ‘ will make you smile.

‘ They adhere to the bottoms of ships,  
 ‘ rocks, roots of trees, &c. in clusters :  
 ‘ thus fixed to a spot, they appear to ve-  
 ‘ getate from a stalk.

‘ The learned call them *Lepas* ; by  
 ‘ which name those small shells likewise  
 ‘ are called, that you so frequently find  
 ‘ adhering to Shell-fish, but particularly  
 ‘ *Oysters*.’

### “ FLAT STAR-FISH.

“ As I sailed from *Ipswich* to *Harwich*,  
 “ I saw a transparent film rise and sink  
 “ in the water : my companion told me  
 “ it was a Star Fish : I believe it is that  
 “ called the Flat. That which you have  
 “ among



" among your sea-weeds had many  
 " spines, I believe, when it was alive ;  
 " for, when I was upon the coast in *Nor-*  
 " *folk*, I saw one very much resembling  
 " it, and *that* had numberless spines, by  
 " means of which it doubtless seizes its  
 " prey : but as soon as the tide retired,  
 " the fish died, and the spines disap-  
 " peared:—or, perhaps, I ought rather  
 " to call them *tentacula*, since *Pennant*  
 " speaks of the Star-Fish as having ' nu-  
 " merous retractile *tentacula*.' The mouth  
 " is placed in the centre."

*Jem.* Here is a packet from *Edmund*,  
 too.

" DEAR JEMIMA,

" MY Brother has inclosed a few spe-  
 " cimens, as a taste of the amusements  
 " of our leisure hours : this he confesses  
 " he did, as much to gratify his own  
 " impa-

“ impatience as mine, though it was  
 “ my propofal to fend them. *Prudence*  
 “ fays, that a regular arrangement of the  
 “ fubjects, and a more methodical de-  
 “ fcription of each object, would be  
 “ proper.—We affent to the truth of  
 “ thefe assertions, and agree, that it will  
 “ be better to defer all communication,  
 “ till we have collected at leaft one fmall  
 “ volume, containing a clafs of animals.  
 “ Then in comes *Inclination*, and over-  
 “ turns our grave plan; laughs at the  
 “ idea of two fchool-boys delaying to  
 “ entertain their Sifter, and alledges your  
 “ request at our parting—‘and can we  
 “ refuse *Femima*?’ —At this hint all  
 “ objections vanifh: we determine to fe-  
 “ lect a few choice morsels to appeafe  
 “ your prefent craving; and rather to  
 “ ferve as a whet, than to fatisfy your  
 “ appetite.

“ Shall

“ Shall I fend you a bill of fare?—  
“ Forest Trees—Fruit Trees—their in-  
“ troduction, use, &c. &c.—Birds,  
“ Beasts, Fishes—some additions to our  
“ Dialogues upon Insects—*Zoophytes*—  
“ But our school-bell rings. Adieu !

“ EDMUND WORTHY.”

END OF THE SECOND VOLUME,

